



Tapu!tea

...ina ia manino le folauga.

Tuesday
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OFFICIAL AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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Governor Togiola announces Healthy Marriage Initiative, \$20K for recipients for five years

(UTULEI) – On Wednesday, December 13, 2006, Governor Togiola Tulafono joined six members of the clergy to launch the Healthy Marriage Initiative called “O le Li’o o le Alofa Project.”

Funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Administration for Children and Families, the Healthy Marriage Initiative is to help couples that choose to marry gain greater access to marriage education services that enable them to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to form and sustain healthy marriages.

Governor Togiola said the initiative will administered locally by the Department of Human and Social Services through its Social Services Division in partnership with Assemblies of God, Catholic Diocese of Samoa-Pago Pago, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Kanana Fou Theological Seminary, Methodist Church, Seventh Day Adventist, Department of Health and the Office of Vital Statistics.

The partners of “O Le Li’o o le Alofa Project” all signed Memorandum of Understanding that they will each receive \$20,000 per year for the next five years as Healthy Marriages Demonstration Sub-Grantee recipients to fund their respective efforts in supporting marriage education and marriage enrichment projects specifically designed for couples. This includes, but is not limited to, married couples, engaged couples, and couples interested in marriage.

Governor Togiola expressed his sincere thanks to the partners of the project by saying funding for these kinds of community projects will greatly assist in their efforts to develop and test the effectiveness of healthy marriage initiatives for individuals, couples, youth, or other target groups (e.g., immigrant families, low-income families, families with special needs).

“A project of this magnitude cannot be done by the government alone, it requires partnership and this is where we are very happy to lean and count on the churches to help with this initiative that will help to identify what works and what does not work in building and sustaining healthy marriages,” Governor Togiola.

(Continued on page 2)

Governor Togiola grateful for passage of 30A tax credit for canneries

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono today expressed his appreciation on the passage of the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 in both the U.S. Senate and House last week that includes a two-year extension of 30A tax credit for the canneries of American Samoa.

The following is the official statement from Governor Togiola regarding the federal measure:

“Regarding passage of the 30A tax credit, I have yet to see the actual text of the act that was passed, so my comments are limited to what I am told.

I am very grateful to the Senate of the United States for allowing a tax credit extension for our canneries, and to the U. S. House of Representatives for their endorsement. As far as I know, this extension expires on December 31, 2007. So there is actually only one more year left. I applaud and thank Congressman Faleomavaega Eni for staying on top of this issue, and pushing for the endorsement of this two-year extension. I want to thank also the canneries and their people for their support. But while I am very grateful for this achievement, I must also urge the Congressman to move forward with the efforts to work out a long-term program for American Samoa. One year is not a very long time. I presented to Congressman Faleomavaega a draft proposal earlier in the year for such a long-term solution and I hope he finds the research and the proposed draft useful as a beginning. We stand ready to work with the Congressman on this issue.”



**Merry Christmas
and Sappy New Year!!**

Healthy Marriage Initiative

(continued from page 1)

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In attendance at a brief ceremony at the Office of the Governor were: Rev. Siaso Mageo - Assemblies of God, Vicar General Fr. Viane Etuale - Catholic Diocese of Samoa-Pago Pago, Rev. Tafa Muasau - Principal, Kanana Fou Theological Seminary, Secretary General Fainu'ulelei Ala'ilima Utu, representing Rev. Taulafo Avei - Methodist Church, Pastor Chritopher Sulutoto - Seventh Day Adventist, Uto'ofili Asofa'afetai Maga - Director, Department of Health, Mrs. Taifita Solomona, Director, Office of Vital Statistics and Talia Fa'afetai Paulualo - Director, Department of Human and Social Services.

"Congratulations to all the recipients and thank you for being our community partners because I am sure that we are all concerned about the statistics in our 2000 census that only 38.8% or 13,192 of American Samoans classified as 'married' remained together in marriage by 2004, constituting 6,596 couples," said Governor Togiola. "The other 61.2% were either married, but physically separated living in different households, which is 94%, legally separated - 2.1% or legally divorced - 3.9%."

"So, we're very appreciative of this grant for healthy marriages because it is a proactive step for us and it will open the door for a stronger focus on healthy marriages in American Samoa. Improved marriage relationships will also improve the family."

Governor Togiola announces \$1.3 million grant award from HUD

(UTULEI) - Governor Togiola Tulafono is pleased to announce the Territory's 2006 Action Plan has been approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and American Samoa will also receive a grant award of \$1.3 million from HUD.

The actual amount of the grant --\$1,380,328-- represents funds allocated to ASG under the HUD Community Planning and Development (CPD) programs designed to address the government's housing needs: [Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) \$1,018,202; Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) \$315, 601; and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) \$46,525]

Governor Togiola said HUD believes the goals and objectives developed in ASG's Annual Action Plan provide the foundation for the formulation of new partnerships and the strengthening of existing partnerships throughout the Territory.

"I am very thankful for the support from HUD because they believe these partnerships will be invaluable as we, as a government, confront the challenges of developing affordable housing, revitalizing neighborhoods, reducing and ending homelessness, and providing economic opportunities, particularly for low-income citizens," said Governor Togiola.

Governor Togiola received the good news this week in an announcement made by HUD in a November 2nd letter received this week from Mr. Mark Chandler, Director of the Office of Community Planning and Development at the Honolulu Region 9 Field Office.

"This is great news for our island community because the Community Development Block Grant program is a great resource for local governments to use to help attract jobs, build and nurture small businesses," said Governor Togiola. "The HOME program provides formula grants to States and localities that communities use --often in partnership with local nonprofit groups-- to fund a wide range of activities that build, buy, and/or rehabilitate affordable housing for rent or homeownership or provide direct rental assistance to low-income people."

ASG RADIO PROGRAM

With:

Governor Togiola Tulafono

Saturdays @ 7a.m.

On:

Showers of Blessings - FM 104.7

Call 699-8123 or 699-8124

SHARE IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES

with our ASG workforce

as well as the citizens of American Samoa.

Email your articles, announcements, pictures or other information to:

tapuitema@amsamoa.gov.as

Or Contact:

Harry Stevens @733-1694 or Vince Iuli @ 733-1041

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

On December 6, 1899, Commander Benjamin Franklin Tilley, Commandant of the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila wrote a letter to Mauga Moimoi of Pago Pago, informing him of the partition of the Samoan islands between Germany and the United States. He asked that this news be disseminated, and that the chiefs continue to maintain good order, promising that their authority, "when properly exercised, will be upheld."

On December 6, 1905, American Samoa's Governor, Commander Charles Brainard Taylor Moore, enacted his "Regulation No. 8-1905: Custom Known as 'Auosoga' Prohibited." Subsection 1 of this regulation stated that "The word 'auosoga' in this regulation shall mean and include the wilful damaging or destroying of trees or property of any nature whatsoever or any public indecent conduct upon the death of a person of rank or during the ceremony known as the 'lagi'."

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On December 7, 1889, Fanny Stevenson was the first of *Equator's* passengers to sight 'Upolu. "Come up and see Samoa!" she called to her fellow passengers, who were below decks. Harry Jay Moors rowed out and met the *Equator*; he and Robert Louis Stevenson became firm friends.

On December 7, 1941, a Japanese fast carrier task force (*Kito Butai*) attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, causing severe damage. In American Samoa, "word of the attack on Pearl Harbor and the order to 'war alert' status were received at Tutuila by the Staff Duty Officer, Chief Pay Clerk W.J. Sherry, USMC, at 10:00, December 7, 1941. Immediately a base-wide alert was sounded, with men ordered to remain at battle stations. Liberty would be rotated among the marines at the rate of four hours every fourth day. This level of readiness was maintained until January 23 [1942] and the arrival of the 2nd Marine Brigade."

On December 7, 1941, "When the Samoans heard that the United States was at war they came in from all sections of the island armed with bush knives (*Machettes [sic]*), volunteering to do anything necessary for the defense of Tutuila. There was no longer any time to worry about expense or approval in construction. Time became the valuable factor and the race against the Japanese was of prime importance."

On December 7, 1941, Captain Laurence Wild, Governor of American Samoa, after learning of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, ordered all women and children evacuated from the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila and moved to the Atauloma Girls' School.

On December 7, 1991, on the fiftieth anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack, Hurricane "Val" caused widespread devastation throughout the Samoan Islands.

On December 8, 1919, Peter Tali Coleman, who became American Samoa's first Samoan Attorney General, the only Samoan appointed civil governor, the first elected Samoan governor, the longest-serving governor in the history of American Samoa, and the only person in the history of the United States and its territories who served as governor in five consecutive decades, was born in Pago Pago.

On December 8, 1923, Pio Taofinu'u, who would become the first Polynesian bishop on May 29, 1968, and the first Polynesian Cardinal on March 5, 1973, was born "just after nightfall" in the village of Falealupo, Savai'i, "where the sun sets and the new day begins."

On December 9, 1941, "the First Samoan Battalion [U.S. Marine Corps Reserve] was placed on active duty for an indefinite date."

On December 11, 1787, twelve members of Jean-François de La Pérouse's crew (including First Officer Paul-Antoine Fleuriot de Langle and 39 Samoans) were killed by angry Samoans at A'asu Bay, Tutuila, thereafter known as "Massacre Bay," which La Pérouse described as "this den, more fearful from its treacherous situation and the cruelty of its inhabitants than the lair of a lion or a tiger." This incident gave Samoa a reputation for savagery, and kept Europeans away until the arrival of the first Christian missionaries four decades later.

On December 15, 1916, English writer William Somerset Maugham arrived in Pago Pago, allegedly accompanied by a missionary.

Samoan Heritage Showcased During ASCC Cultural Day

By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer

The Mission Statement of the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) states: "The College recognizes the significance of perpetuating Samoan culture and language. As the only public institution of higher learning in American Samoa, the College accepts its responsibility for research and instruction in the culture, language, and resources of the Samoan people." Since its inception, ASCC has continuously offered classes in Samoan language and culture, hosted cultural events, and given student organizations the opportunity to display their heritage in the areas of ceremony and performance.

Even with its extensive history of events celebrating the culture of Samoa, this past Tuesday marked the first occasion when an academic division took sole responsibility for organizing a "Samoa Day" at the College. The Samoan Language and Culture Department took this opportunity to showcase the knowledge and skills acquired by more than 400 students enrolled in its classes this semester with an event they titled, "Gagana ma Aga a Samoa/Fa'atinoga o A'oa'oga Samoa (Samoa Education in Action)." The event featured performances by every section of all seven classes in Samoan Language and Culture at the College, with presentations that covered a wide range of aspects of the Samoan experience. Some classes chose to stage elaborate ceremonies utilizing the proper protocol taught by their instructors, while others acted out traditional myths, legends, or even songs. Some groups brought their original ideas to the performance of familiar songs and dances, while others adapted not-so-familiar forms of expression such as "palagi" style drama performed in Samoan. With the endless variety of presentations during the afternoon-long event, the student performers made it clear they could express a Samoan perspective using any form at their disposal, traditional or otherwise.

Tuesday's triumphant event actually had its genesis in a frankly embarrassing incident recalled by ASCC President Dr. Adele Satele-Galea'i during her opening remarks. *(continued on page 4)*

Samoan Heritage Showcased *(from page 3)*

At an ava ceremony on campus some months previously, the students involved apparently neglected to observe the correct procedures and protocol, an omission noticed by many in audience, including Board of Higher Education Chairman HC Pemerika Tauilili. "When his time came to speak at that ceremony, the Chairman made his disappointment very clear to the students involved, which embarrassed them a great deal," said the ASCC President. "The students later apologized to the Chairman, and explained that they had had no choice but to organize the ceremony themselves on short notice, without the involvement of an advisor or teacher. Chairman Tauilili has a great passion for the preservation of Samoan culture, and from the time of that incident, he and I started thinking of ways in which the College could more closely combine the academic side of Samoan studies with the performance side."



ASCC students perform during this past Tuesday's "Samoa Education in Action" event at the College, organized by the Samoan Language and Culture Department. (Photo: J. Kneubuhl)

Dr. Satele-Galea'i eventually conceived the idea of a "Samoa Day" featuring the students enrolled in the ASCC Samoan Language and Culture classes, and discussed the possibility with the chairman of that department, Seuamuli Mataiao Fiamalua. With a late November target date in mind, the students in each of the department's classes started planning and rehearsing their performances near the beginning of this semester, under the guidance of Fiamalua and his staff instructors Teleai Christian Ausage and Tamari Mulitalo-Cheung. As a result, the marathon presentation by the students this past Tuesday

impressed not only a packed auditorium full of their peers, but also special guests Chairman Tauilili, Board of Higher Education member HC Rev. Imo Tiapula, Dr. Satele-Galea'i, Vice President Dr. Seth Galea'i, and Dean of Academic Affairs Dr. Irene Helsham. "I found the performances both educational and entertaining," said the ASCC President, "and the students did an excellent job in preparing. We intend to make this an annual event."

ASCC now offers an Associate of Arts degree in Samoan Language and Culture and now requires that each student complete at least six credits in Samoan studies for graduation.



**ASG 2006
Territorial
Christmas
Program**

